

Development of Indigenous Technology

5490. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently prepared an elaborate plan for promotion and marketing of indigenously developed technologies to compete with imported technology;

(b) if so, the details of the plan with areas of application;

(c) whether any time bound action plan has been drawn for its implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Corporation proposes to take new initiatives several areas for promotion and marketing of indigenously developed technologies. The nature of these initiatives and the approach proposed to be adopted by the Corporation are outlined below:

Technology Development Programme for Priority Projects

The Corporation has started promoting and funding technology development through a few carefully Priority projects contracted by NRDC to R&D laboratories, IITs and selected universities, wherever possible on a joint bases with industry or in industry directly. To achieve the objective, the Corporation has set for itself, the following operational objectives:

- i. To select around 5 projects on the basis of market potential and

technology supply considerations.

- ii. To identify and associate a manufacturing company from the very beginning of the project so as to ensure quick and effective commercialisation of the technology when developed.
- iii. Where necessary, to identify and associate engineering consultants and equipment fabricators at the appropriate stage of process/product development.
- iv. To closely monitor the progress of the projects either in-house staff of the Corporation or through Monitoring Committee.

Design and Engineering Programme for Upscaling Laboratory Process

Design and engineering of laboratory processes has long been recognized as perhaps the most serious gap in the innovation chain which needs to be closed, if a laboratory development is to emerge as a commercially made product in the market. This programme would involve basically two components, first the building up inside the Corporation of a small core of process and plant design engineers supported with adequate draftsman support and a small Computer-Aided Design facility. This core group would interact with the various sectoral in-house groups e.g. chemicals or electronics, as also with clients/licensees, in defining the techno-economics of upscaled processes/plants, providing the engineering inputs for Feasibility/Project Reports and undertaking a limited in-house 'hands-on effort' in basic and detailed engineering. Secondly, contracting design and engineering work to external engineering design companies, particularly on major processes/technologies, with the in-house core-group action as

the "switching node" between the laboratory, the license and the external design company.

Techno-Commercial/ Financial Support to Entrepreneurs Commercialising indigenous technologies licensed by NRDC

To create and infuse confidence among entrepreneurs in indigenous technologies, the Corporation proposes to provide the first licensee product price support to face severe price competition vis-a-vis products produced with foreign collaboration or imported under popular brand names or imported under Open General Licence with low or nil custom duties. It also proposes to help the licensees in marketing their products by providing on a highly selective basis subsidy towards advertising, technical literature, product testing, certification, etc. To start with the Corporation has begun providing financial support towards the advertisement & publicity of products manufactured on the basis of indigenous technologies licensed by it to industry.

Members of U.P.S.C.

5491. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the present members of the UPSC are retired government servants;

(b) the number of appointments made to the Commission since January 1, 1986 and the number of retired government servants among them as well as the total number of members at present who are retired government servants with break-up by service/cadre to which they belong;

(c) the norms, if any of the distribution of the members among various spheres of experience and walks of national life; and

(d) the particulars of present members who are not retired Government servants with field of experience.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d). Appointment to the post of Chairman and Members, Union Public Service Commission is made keeping in view the provisions of Article 316 (1) of the Constitution and the functions of the UPSC laid down in Article 320 of the Constitution.

13 appointments were made to the UPSC since 1.1.86, including the appointment of one of its members as the Chairman. Of these the following two have since retired:

1. Lt. Gen. G.S. Dyal
2. Sh. Q. M. Ahmed

The present composition of the members of UPSC is as follows:

Retired Government Servants:

<i>Chairman</i>	—	<i>Back ground</i>
1. Shri J.P. Gupta	—	Chairman, Railway Board.
<i>Members</i>	—	<i>Back ground</i>
2. Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani (Retd.)	—	Vice-Chief of Naval Staff